

REMARKS

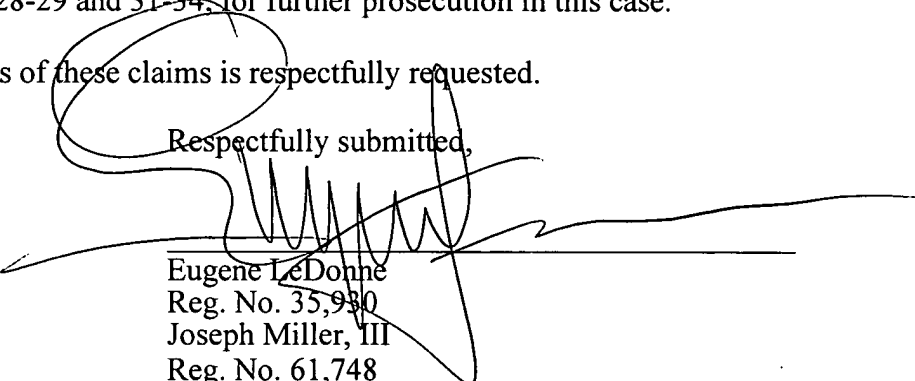
The Examiner contends that the application contains claims to seven patentably distinct species of the generic invention. The Examiner requires election of a single species.

Applicants traverse the requirement to elect a single species because the claims are linked to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. The essence of all of the claims is a single invention of which all of the claims are part and parcel of the application. Further, the mere classification of some of the claims in different species is an artificial division which should not be determinative. Applicants accordingly request reversal of the requirement to elect a single species.

In view of the Examiner's requirement to elect a single species for further prosecution should the opposition not prevail, and without conceding to the Examiner's characterizations, Applicants elect Species II, claims 28-29 and 31-34, for further prosecution in this case.

An early action on the merits of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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